

Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5547

S E C R E T CAIRO 7566

NODIS/CHEROKEE

DEPT PASS SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG US IS

SUBJECT: MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY

REF: SECTO 8094

1. HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH FAHMY IN ALEXANDRIA TO INDICATE YOUR VIEW THAT I SHOULD MEET YOU IN BELGRADE AND TRAVEL THERE COMMERCIALY RATHER THAN BY EGYPTIAN AIRCRAFT IN ORDER TO AVOID ALERTING THE ISRAELIS THAT SOMETHING IS UP. I ALSO POINTED OUT THAT YOU CONSIDER IT VERY IMPORTANT TO BRIEF DINITZ PERSONALLY ON EGYPTIAN REPLY AND THAT THIS WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE BEFORE YOU RETURN TO WASHINGTON NEXT TUESDAY. I EXPRESSED THANKS FOR THE PRESIDENT'S OFFER AND ASSURED FAHMY WE WOULD STAY IN TOUCH.

2. FAHMY ACCEPTED THIS, BUT EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN THAT FURTHER ACTIVITY WILL BE DELAYED UNTIL NEXT TUESDAY. HE PROFESSED TO SEE THIS AS EVIDENCE THAT WE ARE NOT REALLY INTERESTED IN MOVING FORWARD. I TOLD HIM ANY SUCH INTERPRETATION IS TOTALLY WRONG. LIKE THE EGYPTIANS, WE WANT TO MOVE AHEAD RAPIDLY. AS I HAD TOLD THE PRESIDENT, THIS WAS THE WHOLE PURPOSE OF THE SUGGESTIONS WHICH I CONVEYED YESTERDAY. IT HAD ALREADY BEEN ANNOUNCED THAT I WOULD MEET YOU IN BELGRADE AND ANY CHANGE IN VENUE WOULD CERTAINLY BE NOTED. IT WAS NATURAL THAT YOU WANT TO HANDLE THE MATTER WITH DINITZ, SINCE HE HAS BEEN
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INVOLVED IN ALL OF THE EXCHANGES. OUR TACTICS ARE DESIGNED TO

MOVE THINGS FORWARD QUICKLY, YET NOT GIVE THE ISRAELIS THE IMPRESSION THAT THE EGYPTIANS ARE DESPERATE FOR AN AGREEMENT. SUCH AN APPROACH, IT SEEMED TO ME, WAS ALSO IN THE EGYPTIAN BEST INTEREST. FAHMY ULTIMATELY AGREED.

3. HE ASKED THAT I GET IN TOUCH WITH HIM IN ALEXANDRIA TOMORROW BEFORE I LEAVE THE FOLLOWING DAY. I AGREED TO DO SO.

4. AS OF POSSIBLE INTEREST, FAHMY EXPECTS TO STAY IN ALEXANDRIA FOR ABOUT A WEEK OR MORE. ARAFAT IS EXPECTED IN THE NEXT DAY OR SO AND PROBABLY BOUMEDIENNE AS WELL. IN ADDITION MEXICAN PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA MAKES HIS OFFICIAL VISIT HERE AUG 4-7. FAHMY SAYS THE PRESIDENT WILL RECEIVE ALL OF THESE VIPS IN ALEXANDRIA RATHER THAN IN CAIRO.

5. SO FAR AS MY TRAVEL IS CONCERNED, I REMAIN BOOKED ON YUGOSLAV AIRWAYS ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 3. HOWEVER, SINCE THERE IS NO CONVENIENT WAY OF GETTING BACK THE FOLLOWING DAY, MY DATT IS LOOKING INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF ARRANGING FOR A USAF T-39 TO PICK ME UP IN BELGRADE AND FLY ME BACK TO CAIRO. TRUST THIS GIVES YOU NO PROBLEM.
EILTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING, APPOINTMENT, ITINERARY, PEACE TALKS, CAT-C, CHEROKEE 08/01/75, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CAIRO07566
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P850004-0830, N750003-0101
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750887/aaaacyzd.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 75 SECTO 8094
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUL 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <12 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY
TAGS: PEPR, OVIP, PFOR, EG, US, IS, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (FAHMY, ISMAIL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006